

***Amendments to the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

presenting an input interface to enable the user to specify personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history;

selecting a consistent personality for a virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host;

storing, at a computing device, the individual character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and

generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user profile further includes user interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the user interaction history information.

Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2010

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

19-55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a voice interface to an end user comprising:

receiving specified personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history from a communication device associated with a login identifier;

determining a consistent personality based on the specified personality information;

storing, at a computing device, the individual character traits in a profile corresponding to the login identifier;

adjusting one or more user interaction features of a virtual host associated with the login identifier based on adjustments defined by the consistent personality, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history; and

sending a dialogue to the communication device using a conversational style consistent with the adjusted one or more user interaction features.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a the conversational style for the virtual host.

Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2010

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

65. (Previously Presented) A system for providing a voice interface to an end user, the system comprising:

a memory storing:

an interface module configured to enable the end user to specify personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history,

a selecting module configured to select a consistent personality for a virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host,

a storing module configured to store the individual character traits in a profile having preference information within the memory, and

a generating module configured to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history; and

a processor configured to process the enabling, storing, and generating modules.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the system further comprising:

an adjusting module configured to adjust the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72, wherein adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

74. (Previously Presented) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions for receiving specified personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history;

instructions for determining a consistent personality for a virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the individual character traits are specified by the end user of the voice interface;

instructions for storing the individual character traits in a profile having preference information; and

instructions for generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, wherein the consistent personality specifies adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history.

Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2010

75. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 74, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

76. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 74, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

77. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 74, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

78. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 74, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

79. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 74, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

80. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 74, wherein the individual character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.



81. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 80, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the computer program logic further comprising:

instructions for adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

82. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 81, wherein the adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

83. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

presenting an input interface to enable the user to specify personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history;

selecting a consistent personality for a virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host;

storing, at a computing device, the individual character traits in a user profile including user interaction history information;

generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history;

querying the user for permission to adjust a conversational style of the virtual host if user interaction history reaches a threshold; and

adjusting the conversational style if the user grants permission.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein adjusting the conversational style comprises changing a formality level of the conversational style according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

85. (Previously Presented) A system for providing a voice interface, the system comprising:

a memory storing:

a receiving module configured to receive personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history;

a determining module configured to determine a consistent personality for a virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the individual character traits are specified by an end user of the voice interface;

a storing module configured to store the individual character traits in a profile that includes interaction history information within the memory;

a generating module configured to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history;

a querying module configured to query the user for permission to adjust a conversational style of the virtual host if interaction history reaches a threshold;

an adjusting module configured to adjust the conversational style if the user grants permission to adjust the conversational style; and

a processor configured to process the storing, generating, querying, and adjusting modules.

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85, adjusting the conversational style comprises changing a formality level of the conversational style according to a level of experience with the voice user interface.

87. (Previously Presented) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions for receiving specified personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history;

instructions for determining a consistent personality for a virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the individual character traits are specified by an end user of the voice interface;

instructions for storing the individual character traits in a profile having preference information;

instructions for generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, wherein the consistent personality defined adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history;

instructions for querying a user for permission to adjust a conversational style of the virtual host if interaction history reaches a threshold; and

instructions for adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information, if the user grants permission.

88. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 87, wherein the adjusting comprises changing a formality level of the conversational style according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

89. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

receiving means to receive specified personality information comprising one or more individual character traits without regard to user interaction history;

determining means to determine a consistent personality for the virtual host based on the specified personality information, wherein the individual character traits are specified by the end user of the voice interface;

storing means to store the individual character traits in a profile having preference information; and

generating means to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the individual character traits, wherein the consistent personality specifies adjustments to one or more user interaction features of the virtual host, in addition to behavior of the virtual host modified by user interaction history.